MINISTRY OF HEALTH

MANATU HAUORA

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON THE HEALTH EFFECTS OF NON-IONISING FIELDS

The Interagency Committee on the Health Effects of Non-Ionising Fields (the Committee) will provide the Director General of Health with high quality, independent scientific and technical advice on any potential health effects from exposures to extremely low or radiofrequency fields including:

- the quality and completeness of information on which findings and recommendations have been made
- assessment and review of the impact of research and information published locally and overseas, on policies, guidelines and advice promulgated by the Ministry of Health, Ministry for the Environment or Ministry of Economic Development
- other technical, scientific and epidemiological matters in relation to the extremely low or radio frequency fields as may be required.

The Committee will report to the Director General of Health, with copies of meeting notes provided to the Chief Executives of the Ministry for the Environment and the Ministry for Economic Development. Should there be reasonable suspicion of health hazards, or other issues of significance, these will be brought to the attention of joint Ministers. Annual and/or occasional reports will also be provided to joint Ministers.

Composition of the Committee

The membership of the Committee will include representatives from the following agencies, organisations, and sectors:

- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment: Energy Safety Service, Workplace Health & Safety, Radio Spectrum Management
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry for the Environment
- public health unit
- local government
- academics/scientists
- consumers
- electrical industry: transmission and supply
- telecommunications industry

Observers may also be in attendance from the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA), and from the members' agencies or organisations. The Ministry of Health will provide the Chair and secretarial support for the Committee.

Media Policy: In carrying their functions as members of the Committee, no member shall make media statements of any kind on behalf of the Committee or about the proceedings of the Committee unless requested to do so by the Director General of Health. If members wish to discuss media issues, they should contact the Ministry of Health's Corporate Communications Unit in the first instance (tel. 04 496 2008, mobile 021 366 111).